Questions and Answers

Why did you wait so long to act?

- The use of the Emergencies Act should rightly be an action of last resort. It is not something a Government should invoke until it is absolutely necessary.

- Declaring a Public Order Emergency provides the federal government with the flexibility to supplement your efforts and act more quickly in our collaborative work with provinces and territories and municipalities in restoring safety and security for Canadians.

When will this come into effect?

- The Declaration will come into immediately upon its release and will stay in effect for 30 days unless it is revoked by Parliament or the Governor in Council.

- The Governor in Council can extend the declaration for an additional 30 days but must consult again with all of you before doing so. The extension is also subject to confirmation in Parliament.

Does this mean the RCMP will take over in Ottawa or elsewhere?

- The RCMP will play an active role as part of the Integrated Command with the OPP and the Ottawa Police Service that was established over the weekend in Ottawa.

- The RCMP will continue to support the police of local jurisdiction in taking action to restore public order. It allows the RCMP to provide greater assistance by enabling them to enforce municipal laws and provincial offences. .

Will you take action to address the underlying issues of fatigue with pandemic restrictions?

- People are clearly tired of pandemic restrictions. I understand this - I would like to get rid of them too.

- We will be making announcements this week to begin rolling back restrictions at the border. But as I have always said, and like you, we want our decisions to be guided by science.

Why aren't you just invoking this in Ontario?

- We have all seen these blockades emerge across the country - at Coutts, Emerson, the lower mainland – in addition to sites in Ontario.

- Invoking the Emergencies Act will allow us to act to assist provinces and territories and municipalities in responding to events wherever they occur.

Will you send in the Canadian Armed Forces?

- This is not about sending in the CAF. Those measures operate under separate legislation – the National Defence Act.

- The Emergencies Act is about giving legal tools to assist provinces, territories and local jurisdictions in responding to blockades that are impacting public safety and are hurting the Canadian economy.

Will provide tow trucks to Alberta, as we requested?

- The Emergencies Act allows us to direct persons to render essential services to relieve the impacts of blockades – this can include tow trucks and tow truck drivers.

- I understand that Transport Canada has also been discussing a strategy to address the tow truck issue with Alberta and other provinces. They are coordinating a working group with Public Safety, Public Services and Procurement Canada and RCMP to support local police, and provincial authorities in securing enough truck/tractor removal capacity, including through the provision of drivers, heavy tow trucks, or other heavy equipment (EG bulldozers).